

PATENT

BECKMAN 1200-US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lincoln, *et al.* Examiner: Mummert, Stephanie Kane  
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Kalow & Springut LLP  
488 Madison Avenue, 19th Floor  
New York, New York 10022

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO ACCOMPANY REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION

This communication is submitted in response to the Final Office Action that the PTO mailed on February 21, 2008 in connection with the above-identified application. The deadline for filing a response to the Final Office Action was set to expire on May 21, 2008. On August 21, 2008, Applicants' filed a Notice of Appeal with a petition for the necessary amount of time in which to respond and the requisite fee. In lieu of proceeding with the appeal, Applicants submit this Amendment and Response and a Request for Continued Examination. Because these documents are being submitted within two months of filing of the Notice of Appeal, Applicants submit that no petition for extension of time is necessary. If the Patent Office deems a petition for extension of time necessary, then Applicants request that this communication constructively be treated as a petition for the necessary extension of time, and the PTO debit any required sums from deposit account 11-0171.